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m. 10
wherein the numbering of amino acids is based on SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said mutein, or a biologically active peptide thereof, has improved mitogenic agonist activity over wild-type basic fibroblast growth factor.

23. (Amended) A polynucleotide encoding [the] a mutein [of claim 1] of human basic fibroblast growth factor, or a biologically active peptide thereof, wherein said mutein comprises the substitution of a neutral and/or hydrophobic amino acid for one or more of the following:

- A3
(a) Glutamate 89; or
(b) Aspartate 101; or
(c) Leucine 137,

wherein the numbering of amino acids is based on SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said mutein, or a biologically active peptide thereof, has improved mitogenic activity over wild-type basic fibroblast growth factor.

In the Abstract:

Line 3, please delete "novel".

A4
Line 7, please delete "Also disclosed are methods for stimulating . . . and treating a duodenal ulcer." and insert in lieu thereof + Also disclosed is a method for stimulating cell division.--.